

BRADSHAW HALL SWALES, 1875-1928.

A BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.¹

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Plate XII.

DEATH removed the moving spirit and organizer of the Baird Ornithological Club, of Washington, D. C., when Bradshaw Hall Swales passed away at his Albemarle Street home on January 23, 1928, after an illness of many months. The disorder which finally resulted in his death began to manifest itself about the end of September, 1926, when he was obliged to cancel his reservation for the trip to Ottawa to attend the meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, and to enter a local hospital for treatment. After a few weeks of comparative freedom he was again in the hospital, and thenceforth became a semi-invalid at home, alternating with occasional visits to the hospital, spending his days resting in an easy chair, feeding and observing the birds that gathered on a shelf outside his window. Here he received his friends up to within a week of the end.

Mr. Swales was born in Detroit, Michigan, June 30, 1875, the second child of Charles Everett and Susan Matilda Swales. His early life was passed in Detroit, and his love of birds developed there at an early age. He graduated from the University of Michigan, taking the degree of LL.B. in 1896, and LL.M. in 1897, and in the latter part of 1897 was admitted to the Michigan bar and began the practice of law in Detroit. In the spring of 1898 he went to Pasadena, California, to engage in the practice of law, but later in the same year was obliged to return east on account of ill health. While in California, he made the acquaintance of Dr. Joseph Grinnell, and through him joined the Cooper Ornithological Club, as one of its early eastern members.

It is uncertain how or when Swales became interested in birds, but his devotion to ornithology began very early, for his first published effort, on the "Golden-crowned Thrush," appeared in

¹ Contribution from the Baird Ornithological Club.

the 'Öölogist' for October, 1889, when he was not much more than fourteen years of age. In his second item, published in 1891, he added an appeal to those better informed, saying he wanted to "obtain a list or book of Michigan birds." This was two years before the appearance of Cook's "Birds of Michigan" and literature on the subject was scarce, as well as scattered. He was obliged to struggle along with other local amateurs in gaining what ornithological knowledge he could, but it was up hill work, with no expert ornithologist at hand to turn to for help, and in later years he frequently commented on his early difficulties. As an aid to present and future generations of Michigan bird students, he presented a collection of about 2000 bird skins to the Zoological Museum of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and at his death left his very considerable ornithological library to the same institution. He had accumulated a large amount of data on the birds of his state, including all published records of importance, as well as a nearly complete bibliography of Michigan birds, arranged on cards; these went with his library to the museum at Ann Arbor.

In spite of the difficulties encountered in his early studies, Mr. Swales persisted, sending his observations to the bird magazines of the day, and before he was twenty-one years old had a list of thirty-four titles to his credit, quite a remarkable showing for a young man.

During his college years he sustained an injury in athletics, which necessitated surgical attention, and from that time on he was obliged to undergo hospital treatment at intervals; this, with a subsequent protracted case of biliary calculi, resulting in another operation, had a tendency to reduce his vitality and limit his ornithological output.

From 1912 Mr. Swales was a member of the governing board of the Zoological Museum at Ann Arbor, and for a number of years was honorary assistant in ornithology there. He was also one of the founders and supporters of its "Occasional Papers."

After taking up his residence in Washington, Mr. Swales was, in 1918, appointed honorary custodian of the section of birds' eggs in the National Museum, and subsequently, in 1921, was made honorary assistant curator of birds. He became much



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interested in foreign birds and contributed many genera and species of rare birds to this museum through the Swales Fund, established for this purpose. For several years he was engaged in study of the birds of Haiti, and in conjunction with Dr. A. Wetmore had begun work on a report on the ornithology of this island, which was partly completed at his death. A new thrush, *Haplocichla swalesi*, commemorates his name there. Among his publications in ornithology, which number just over one hundred titles, probably the most important is a paper written in collaboration with P. A. Taverner dealing with the birds of Point Pelee, where with others he carried on observations on migration for a number of years. A list of his published papers is appended to the present notice. A large proportion of his writings are naturally on the birds of his native state, and many of them deal with his home district, Wayne County. Having grown up as an amateur, with no technical training in systematic ornithology, he could not divest himself of the feeling that he was only an amateur. On one of his early visits to Washington he found a new bird from Brazil during his examination of the collection, prepared a paper describing it and submitted it to Mr. Ridgway, who approved it, but he lacked the courage to publish it. It was this feeling of diffidence that limited his contributions in descriptive ornithology to collaboration with others.

In addition to ornithology, Mr. Swales was deeply interested in anthropology, especially in relation to the American Indian, and was also much interested in the early history of the West. Unknown to most of his friends he possessed one of the largest libraries extant concerning the history of base-ball and supplied much information on this subject to writers of the past few years.

Mr. Swales became an associate of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1902 and a member in 1909; member of the Cooper Ornithological Club in 1898; member of the Wilson Ornithological Club in 1903, and later was vice-president; member of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Washington Academy of Sciences, Biological Society of Washington, American Society of Mammalogists, American Anthropological Association (since 1909), Anthropological Society of Washington, and other organizations. He was a founder of the

Baird Ornithological Club and its president at the time of his death. In fact, he was more than a founder, for it was due almost entirely to Mr. Swales' activity and interest that the Baird Ornithological Club came into being.

Mr. Swales in 1902 married Mary Rhoda Medbury, of Flint, Michigan, who survives him. His remains rest near Flint.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

1. Golden-crowned Thrush. Oölogist, VI, No. 10, Oct., 1889, 189.
A short account, chiefly on nesting habits.
2. [Short Notes on Michigan Birds.] Oölogist, VIII, No. 6, June, 1891, 122. On Evening Grosbeak and Large-billed Water Thrush.
3. [Note on the Song Sparrow.] Oölogist, VIII, No. 8, August, 1891, 164. A nest found in an apple tree, about six feet from ground.
4. Michigan Notes. Oölogist, VIII, No. 9, Sept., 1891, 185-186. On the nesting of several species.
5. [Large set of eggs of Red-headed Woodpecker, etc.] Orn. & Oöl., XVI, No. 9, Sept., 1891, 144. Reports a set of eight eggs, and refers to late nesting of Woodcock.
6. Nesting Notes, 1890. Orn. & Oöl., XVI, No. 10, Oct., 1891, 148-149. Notes on breeding of sixteen species.
7. [Notes on Migration.] Orn. & Oöl., XVI, No. 10, Oct., 1891, 159. Dates of arrival of fourteen species.
8. The Nest of the Chestnut-sided Warbler. Oölogist, VIII, No. 12, Dec., 1891, 243-244.
9. The Horned Grebe (*Podiceps cornutus*). Oölogist, VIII, No. 12, Dec., 1891, 246-247. Notes on the nest and eggs, but the species proves to be the Pied-billed Grebe.
10. Albino Eggs of the Long-billed Marsh Wren. Oölogist, IX, No. 1, Jan., 1892, 11. Reports several sets of white eggs of this species.
11. Nesting of the Golden-winged Warbler. Oölogist, IX, No. 2, Feb., 1892, 45. Describes a nest and four eggs found by him May 25, 1891.
12. Michigan Notes. Oölogist, IX, No. 2, Feb., 1892, 45-46. Notes on the nesting of eleven species.
13. Horned Grebe on St. Clair flats. Oölogist, IX, No. 4, April, 1892, 96. On nesting habits, but is misidentification of the Pied-billed Grebe.
14. [A few Winter Bird Notes.] Orn. & Oöl., XVII, No. 4, April, 1892, 64. Notes on four species.
15. American Long-eared Owl. Orn. & Oöl., XVII, No. 5, May, 1892, 75. Notes on habits and nesting.
16. Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Wayne Co., Mich. Orn. & Oöl., XVII, No. 5, May, 1892, 75. Its habits and nesting.

17. [Eggs of Red-shouldered Hawk.] *Orn. & Oöl.*, XVII, No. 5, May, 1892, 79. Describes a set of five eggs.
18. Nesting of the Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*). *Orn. & Oöl.*, XVII, No. 7, July, 1892, 103. Nest with ten eggs described.
19. [Nest and Eggs of the Phoebe.] *Orn. & Oöl.*, XVII, No. 7, July, 1892, 111.
20. Albino Eggs of the Long-billed Marsh Wren. *Orn. & Oöl.*, XVII, No. 8, Aug.; 1892, 121. Same information as given under No. 10.
21. Birds of Wayne County, Mich. *Orn. & Oöl.*, XVII, No. 8, Aug., 1892, 122-123. A brief account of the avifauna of this county.
22. [Tame Red-shouldered Hawks.] *Orn. & Oöl.*, XVII, No. 10, Oct., 1892, 159. Notes on the habits of two birds raised from the nest.
23. Field Sparrow in Michigan. *Orn. & Oöl.*, XVII, No. 10, Oct., 1892, 159. Record of two sets of eggs found by him.
24. [Brief Notes on Michigan Winter Birds.] *Orn. & Oöl.*, XVIII, No. 3, March, 1893, 35. Notes on eight species.
25. Michigan Bird Arrivals. *Forest & Stream*, XL, No. 16, April 20, 1893, 337.
26. [Spring Notes.] *Forest and Stream*, XL, No. 19, May 11, 1893, 403.
27. American Woodcock. *Orn. & Oöl.*, XVIII, No. 5, May, 1893, 79. Notes on its nesting near Detroit.
28. Detroit, Mich., 1891 Notes. *Orn. & Oöl.*, XVIII, No. 7, July, 1893, 100-101. Nesting of various species. (The Olive-backed Thrush recorded proved to be Wilson's Thrush.)
29. [Nesting Dates for Certain Michigan Birds.] *Orn. & Oöl.*, XVIII, No. 7, July, 1893, 107-108.
30. [Nesting Dates for Certain Michigan Birds.] *Orn. & Oöl.*, XVIII, No. 10, Oct., 1893, 139.
31. The Least Bittern. *Nidologist*, II, No. 8, April, 1895, 108-109. Its habits and nesting in Wayne Co., Michigan.
32. Michigan Notes. *Nidologist*, II, No. 10, June, 1895, 139. Arrival dates for six species and notes on three others.
33. Dickcissel Breeding at Detroit. *Nidologist*, III, No. 2, Oct., 1895, 19. Announces nest and eggs found by him on June 20.
34. Wood Thrush. *Nidologist*, III, No. 10-11, June-July, 1896, 115-116. Habits, song, etc., near Detroit.
35. A "Full Set of Rail's." *Nidologist*, III, No. 12, Aug., 1896, 142. A nest of the King Rail containing nine eggs of this species, seven of the Virginia Rail, and one of the Sora.
36. A Trip to Grassy Island. *Bull. Mich. Orn. Club*, I, No. 3-4, July-Dec., 1897, 30-32. Account of a collecting trip to this island in the lower Detroit River.
37. Bird Notes from Grassy Island. *Bull. Mich. Orn. Club*, III, No. 2, April, 1899, 20. Observations on migration and nesting of various species at this locality.

38. A Few Wayne County (Mich.) Notes, 1902. *Wilson Bull.*, XIV, No. 4, Dec., 1902, 138-139. Notes on the occurrence of fifteen species, uncommon in this locality.
39. Notes on the Winter Birds of Wayne County, Michigan. *Wilson Bull.*, XV, No. 1, March, 1903, 20-24. Comments on sixty-one species.
40. [Notice of the Re-organization of the Michigan Ornithological Club.] *Wilson Bull.*, XV, No. 1, March, 1903, 35.
41. A List of the Land Birds of Southeastern Michigan. *Bull. Mich. Orn. Club*, IV, No. 1, March, 1903, 14-18; No. 2, June, 1903, 35-40; V, No. 2, June, 1904, 37-43. An annotated list of one hundred and sixty-five species, with dates of occurrence of unusual forms.
42. Minutes of Club Meetings. *Bull. Mich. Orn. Club*, IV, No. 1, March, 1903, 29-30.
43. Minutes of Club Meetings. *Bull. Mich. Orn. Club*, IV, No. 2, June, 1903, 61.
44. Minutes of Club Meetings. *Bull. Mich. Orn. Club*, IV, No. 4, Dec., 1903, 98-99.
45. The Evening Grosbeak in Presque Isle Co., Mich., *Auk*, XXI, No. 1, Jan., 1904, 82.
46. A Few Southern Michigan Notes. *Auk*, XXI, No. 1, Jan., 1904, 84-85. Notes on nine species.
47. White-winged Crossbill—A Correction. *Auk*, XXI, No. 2, April, 1904, 281. A record of breeding, repeated by several authors, proves to refer to the Goldfinch.
48. Minutes of Club Meetings. *Bull. Mich. Orn. Club*, V, No. 2, June, 1904, 51-52.
49. Breeding of the Broad-winged Hawk in Wayne County. *Bull. Mich. Orn. Club*, V, No. 3, Sept., 1904, 69.
50. Additions to List of the Winter Birds of Wayne County, Mich. *Wilson Bull.*, XVI, No. 3, Sept., 1904, 82-83. Adds ten species to his previous list (see No. 39).
51. Wintering of the Red-headed Woodpecker at Detroit, Michigan. *Auk*, XXII, No. 1, Jan., 1905, 80.
52. Henslow's Sparrow in St. Clair County, Michigan. *Auk*, XXII, No. 1, Jan., 1905, 83-84.
53. The Northern Parula Warbler in Southern Michigan. *Auk*, XXII, No. 1, Jan., 1905, 84-85.
54. Notes on Several Rare Southeastern Michigan Birds. *Auk*, XXII, No. 1, Jan., 1905, 88-89. (By B. H. Swales and P. A. Taverner.) Data on the occurrence of four unusual species in s.e. Michigan.
55. Late Canada Geese. *Bull. Mich. Orn. Club*, VI, Nos. 1-2, March-June, 1905, 20.
56. Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) in Michigan. *Auk*, XXII, No. 4, Oct., 1905, 413.

57. Additions and Additional Data to a Preliminary List of the Land Birds of Southeastern Michigan. *Wilson Bull.*, XVII, No. 4, Dec., 1905, 108-114. Three species are added to his earlier list, and additional records or corrections are made for twenty-three others.
58. Three Michigan Records. *Auk*, XXIII, No. 1, Jan., 1906, 100. Notes on the Barn Owl, Saw-whet Owl, and Goshawk.
59. Hermit Thrush in Winter. *Wilson Bull.*, XVIII, No. 1, March, 1906, 26. Noted one on Belle Isle, Detroit River, Dec. 8, 1905.
60. Lesser Snow Geese in Michigan and Ontario. *Auk*, XXIII, No. 2, April, 1906, 219-220. (By P. A. Taverner and B. H. Swales.) Two specimens recorded, one from St. Clair Flats and the other from Point Pelee.
61. Remarks on the Summer Birds of Lake Muskoka, Ontario. *Wilson Bull.*, XVIII, No. 2, June, 1906, 60-68. (By B. H. Swales and P. A. Taverner.) Comments on sixty species.
62. The Carolina Chickadee in Southern Michigan. *Auk*, XXIII, No. 3, July, 1906, 342. Records one from Wayne Co., believed to be the first authentic record for the state.
63. Recent Ornithological Developments in Southeastern Michigan. *Auk*, XXIV, No. 2, April, 1907, 135-148. (By B. H. Swales and P. A. Taverner.) Remarks on changes in abundance in various species, with observations on thirty-two forms.
64. The Birds of Point Pelee. *Wilson Bull.*, XIX, No. 2, June, 1907, 37-53; No. 3, Sept., 1907, 82-99; No. 4, Dec., 1907, 133-153; XX, No. 2, June, 1908, 79-96; No. 3, Sept., 1908, 107-129, with map. (By P. A. Taverner and B. H. Swales.) Comment, often extended, on two hundred and nine species observed at this interesting station during the migratory period. The observations were made over a number of years, with the aid of several other students.
65. Winter Notes from Detroit, Michigan and Vicinity. *Wilson Bull.*, XX, No. 3, Sept., 1908, 152-154. Notes on ten species of rare or unusual occurrence in winter.
66. *Bubo virginianus occidentalis* in Michigan. *Auk*, XXVII, No. 2, April, 1910, 208. Records a specimen from Ontonagon County.
67. Carolina Parakeet (*Conurus carolinensis*). *Auk*, XXVII, No. 2, April, 1910, 209. The supposed Michigan record for this species proves to be erroneous.
68. The Turnstone at Grosse Isle, Michigan. *Auk*, XXVII, No. 4, Oct., 1910, 452-453.
69. Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula caparoch*) in Michigan. *Auk*, XXVII, No. 4, Oct., 1910, 454.
70. Nesting of *Passerherbulus henslowi henslowi* on Grosse Isle, Michigan. *Auk*, XXVII, No. 4, Oct., 1910, 458-459.

71. Notes from Grosse Isle, Michigan. Auk, XXVII, No. 4, Oct., 1910, 462. Notes on *Lophodytes cucullatus* and *Dendroica discolor*.
72. Notes on the Migration of the Saw-whet Owl. Auk, XXVIII, No. 3, July, 1911, 329-334. (By P. A. Taverner and B. H. Swales.) Migratory movements in this species verified.
73. Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) [in Michigan]. Auk, XXIX, No. 1, Jan., 1912, 100-101. Notes on its presence in Wayne County.
74. Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) [in Michigan]. Auk, XXIX, No. 1, Jan., 1912, 102. Summer record for Wayne County.
75. Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*) [in Michigan]. Auk, XXIX, No. 1, Jan., 1912, 107. Several records for southern Michigan are here cited.
76. Yellow Rail in Michigan. A Correction. Auk, XXIX, No. 2, April, 1912, 237-238. Correction of earlier note; the records relate to Wayne County.
77. Some Additions to a List of the Winter Birds of Southeastern Michigan. Part III. Wilson Bull., XXIV, No. 3, Sept., 1912, 126-129. Eighteen additions to the lists given under nos. 39 and 50.
78. Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*) in Michigan. Auk, XXX, No. 1, Jan., 1913, 111-112. Records a bird from Lenawee County, apparently the first undoubted capture for the state.
79. A Critique of Barrows' 'Michigan Bird Life.' Wilson Bull., XXV, No. 1, March, 1913, 27-36. Comments on Barrows' work, with notes on thirteen species that should be eliminated from the Michigan list.
80. The Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus dominicus*) in Michigan in Spring. Auk, XXX, No. 4, Oct., 1913, 581. Record of several specimens secured in April.
81. The Ornithological Writings of Charles Fox. Occ. Papers Mus. Zool. Univ. of Mich., No. 26, April 15, 1916, 1-2. Fox's "The Birds of Michigan," the original place of publication of which had been a puzzle of long standing, is here cleared up.
82. Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*) in Wayne County, Michigan. Auk, XXXIII, No. 4, Oct., 1916, 437-438. Three records are cited for this locality.
83. Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*) in Michigan. Auk, XXXV, No. 1, Jan., 1918, 75. Comments on a recent record made by Barrows.
84. The Purple Sandpiper at Cleveland, Ohio. Occ. Papers Mus. Zool. Univ. Mich., No. 57, June 20, 1918, 1-2.
85. Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*) in Wyoming. Auk, XXXVI, No. 1, Jan., 1919, 102. Records four specimens from Fort Laramie.

86. A Former Record of the Heath Hen (*Tympanuchus cupido*) at Washington, D. C. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 32, Dec. 31, 1919, 198. Based on a bird collected in April, 1846, and formerly in the National Museum collection.
87. Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) at Detroit, Michigan. Auk, XXXVII, No. 3, July, 1920, 463.
88. Records of Several Rare Birds from near Washington, D. C. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 33, Dec. 30, 1920, 181-182. Records of seven species rare for the region.
89. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) in Northampton County, Va. Auk, XXXIX, No. 1, Jan., 1922, 109.
90. [Notice of Organization of Baird Club.] (Anon.) Auk, XXXIX, No. 3, July, 1922, 455.
91. Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) in Maryland in Summer. Auk, XXXIX, No. 4, Oct., 1922, 568-569. Reports the breeding of this form near Laurel, Md.
92. *Vermivora leucobronchialis* in Venezuela. Auk, XL, No. 1, Jan., 1923, 132-133. Records a specimen of this hybrid collected in the Merida region on April 10, 1920.
93. [Notice of Annual Meeting of Baird Ornithological Club.] Auk, XL, No. 2, April, 1923, 381.
94. Descriptions of Three New Birds from Gonave Island, Haiti. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 37, March 17, 1924, 105-107. (By Chas. W. Richmond and Bradshaw H. Swales.) New forms of the genera *Saurothera*, *Calyptophilus*, and *Phaenicophilus* are described.
95. [Notice of Annual Meeting of Baird Ornithological Club.] (Anon.) Auk, XLI, No. 3, July, 1924, 514.
96. *Vireo bellii bellii* at Detroit, Michigan. Auk, XLII, No. 3, July, 1925, 449-450. (By Bradshaw H. Swales and Norman A. Wood.) Doubt is thrown on a recent record of this species, based on a specimen alleged to have been collected near Detroit.
97. [Notice of Annual Meeting of Baird Ornithological Club.] Auk, XLII, No. 3, July, 1925, 482.
98. Ruby-throated Hummingbird near St. Michael, Alaska. Condor, XXVIII, No. 3, May 15, 1926, 128. An unusual record for this species.
99. Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Virginia. Auk, XLIII, No. 4, Oct., 1926, 538. Capture of a specimen at Boyce, Clarke Co., is reported.
100. *Idiopsar brachyurus* in Argentina. Auk, XLIII, No. 4, Oct., 1926, 547-548. First record for this rare bird in Argentina.
101. [Notice of Annual Meeting of Baird Ornithological Club.] Auk, XLIII, No. 4, Oct., 1926, 580.

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